1999

Winter

NCNA *Journal*

NCNA Journal

Cleaning Coins

Web Notes

Gasparro Medals

Winter 1999

North Carolina Numismatic Association

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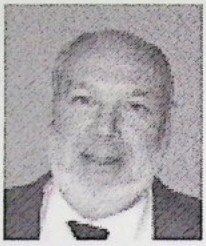

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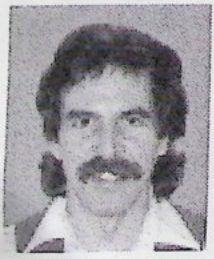

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Authors: The *Journal* welcomes short, original articles, reviews, club news, opinions, letters or similar items of numismatic interest. Please submit to the editor. All correspondence will be answered. Issue deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 5, November 15.

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From the President

Your board met at the Charlotte Club Show at the Merchandise Mart on the evening of Saturday, February 13. Lots of business was discussed and a number of activities are underway.

The first item is the good news that Cy Dellinger will be Bourse Chairman for our convention in Greensboro, September 24-26. Cy has done an outstanding job for us in the past.

The second item is that the NCNA will collaborate with several other organizations in sponsoring panel programs at the North Carolina Collection in the Wilson Library on April 17th and 18th, just before National Coin Week (see page 9). There will be panel discussions and coin identification services for the public. Bob Schreiner is our representative on this project.

Most clubs should have received the request from Jerry Sajbel to submit logos to put on our state banner. This project should be completed at least in time for our convention in September and will provide something that can be displayed around the state to show numismatic activity throughout the state. Make certain that you club is included.

The board voted to present the Junior Numismatist of the Year with a scholarship to the ANA summer conference. This will make this award not only prestigious but financially rewarding.

The last item of business is actually some connections that resulted in news this morning. A call to Betsy Buford, Assistant Secretary of Cultural Affairs, led to the following information. It has already been decided (by whom is not clear) that the theme for the North Carolina entry in the Fifty State Quarter Program will be THE FIRST FLIGHT. Hopefully not worded "First in Flight" as on our license plates. Get out your pencils, sketch pads, and your knowledge of technical numismatics. The Department of Cultural Resources, having made the one decision, is anxious for advice on the details.

With this issue of the Journal, we welcome JT Stanton as printer. In addition to his many numismatic activities including service to the ANA, JT is a printer by profession and prints some 30 numismatic journals. Glad to have you, JT.

We've got lots of things going, folks, and there's plenty of ways for all of us to contribute.

President
Halbert Carmichael

The Cleaning and Preservation of Coins

James R. Barry

Cleaning coins has become one of the most controversial issues for collectors in recent years. Of course, coins have been cleaned since coin collecting began and now that some grading services have demonstrated that they have either cleaned some coins or slabbed cleaned coins the question hinges on - should a coin collector clean a coin or not? It is a well known fact that "professionals" in the coin business have been cleaning coins for years. Still, this is not an area that the novice coin collector should enter into without trepidation. In defense of the advice not to clean coins, is the experience that every new collector has of trying to clean a coin to improve its surfaces only to ruin the coin instead.

Of course, everyone would agree that to somehow alter the surface of a coin by mechanical means such as *"whizzing"* - using a high speed wire brush - or buffing is clearly going to destroy the integrity of a coin's surfaces and therefore, its value. Even certain chemicals not used in a judicious manner can permanently impair a coin's surfaces.

So what is a collector to do? The answer lies in carefully weighing the benefits and/or the detriment that might be derived from cleaning a coin. With a little forethought it is possible to do some cleaning that will not impair or harm a coin. While some still use acetone to flush a coin's surface, and this certainly will not hurt a coin, the product is both toxic and highly flammable. Thiourea - an acid - has been used for many years to "dip" coins - and in the hands of an experienced collector or dealer, a diluted solution of thiourea has the ability to turn a tarnished coin into a brilliant white coin. Again, it should be emphasized that in the hand of a novice that same coin can be ruined by over exposure to this acid solution. Even when using an acid solution it is necessary to completely flush and neutralize the cleaning agent or the effects of the cleaning will be short-lived. One of the best neutralizing solutions for use with acid based cleansers is baking soda diluted in distilled water. Keep in mind that most tap water contains chemicals that may be harmful to a coin's surface. Finally, rinsing the coin in clear distilled water to remove any of the baking soda residue should complete the cleaning process.

Among the more recent cleaners that appear to be a little less risky, especially for the amateur collector, is MS-70. This product is described by the manufacturer as an "industrial strength" coin brightener. Compared to the aforementioned acid solutions, MS-70's slower reaction on a coin's surface makes it relatively easy for a collector to use and generally less risky as well. Another type of cleaner is made by Harco. This product is sold as a coin conditioner and has little risk of inflicting damage to a coin. This product can be especially helpful in cleaning and preserving older copper coins as it contains a cleaning agent - trichorethane and a preservative. Anyone using this product should keep in mind that trichlorethane also contains harmful vapors and it should only be used in well ventilated areas. Again, it is important to remember that a cleaning agent that does not contain a preservative must be flushed and neutralized for best results.

When drying a cleaned coin that has been sufficiently neutralized and rinsed, a clean soft towel may be used to dry the coin. However, the coin's surface should be patted, never rubbed, even with a soft cotton cloth. Rubbing will leave hairline marks that can easily be detected. Now that your coin is clean it is important to be careful in the way you handle it before storing it. Continue to hold the coin by its edge and do not even breathe over it as this may contaminate what is now a fragile pristine surface that is no longer protected.

The final process in preserving any coin, whether it has been recently cleaned or not, is to preserve it for as long as possible in its present condition. This is no easy task as airborne vapors are always present that will attack a coin's surface especially those that have a brilliant surface. While a slabbed coin will usually be at least risk of injurious vapors, even most slabs are not completely impervious to harmful airborne ingredients. Naturally, living in a humid area is more injurious to coins than a dry environment. Therefore, it is important to store coins in the driest place possible.

Finally, the product that is used to hold the coin in storage is also important. Whatever product is chosen should be of archival quality. For example, soft plastic flips are fine for short term storage and shipping. However, the plastic polymers in these products can be extremely detrimental to a coin's surface if used for a lengthy period of time.

Flips made of mylar or coin capsules of polystyrene are significantly better choices for the long term preservation of coins. Keep in mind that any product that is inert and will not chemically react with a coin's surface is always preferable.

In summary, remember whether cleaning or just storing a coin, the choice is yours, but ultimately, the best choices will result in owning the best coins when care is taken in the proper cleaning and storage of those coins.

Jim Barry is a member of the Numismatic Literary Guild. This is his third *Journal* article since 1997.

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In Memorium

Donald G Sharpe

Don, a past NCNA President, passed away to eternal life on the Sunday after Christmas. Active in the Charlotte Coin Club, he was member number 008 and is dearly missed by its membership. He was a key link to the origins of the club, and would often relate club history that none others present had the pleasure of experiencing.

Many of you know Don from his running of the club show over the years, as recently as 1993. He gave unselfishly of his time to assist in the hobby he loved. Don was responsible for recruiting some of our long time club members and would always contribute when he could.

He was a very religious man, and was entirely devoted to his wife Frances, who is now having a very difficult time. Please remember her in your prayers, and know that Don went on to a better life, his just reward.

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The Commemorative Designs of Frank Gasparro: Part I

David Provost

From the title, you might expect this to be a review of the U.S. commemorative coins that Frank Gasparro designed while an engraver at the U.S. Mint. The truth is, however, that Mr. Gasparro did not design a single U.S. commemorative coin during his 39 years at the Mint. His only commemorative coin design was for a program released ten years after he had left the Mint; the former Chief Engraver designed the reverse of the 1991 Mount Rushmore silver dollar commemorative.

Frank Gasparro is well represented on our nation's coinage, however, by his regular issue designs. His work includes the Memorial reverse of the Lincoln cent, the reverse of the Kennedy half dollar, and both the obverse and reverse of the Eisenhower and Anthony dollars. He was also responsible for adapting the original competition-winning designs for the bicentennial quarter, half dollar, and dollar into the final designs used on the coins.

Why was Gasparro's commemorative output seemingly so limited? The answer is simple: timing. Frank Gasparro began his career at the U.S. Mint in 1942 as an Assistant Engraver, and retired from his Chief Engraver post in 1981. Students of our commemorative coinage programs will immediately recognize that the majority of Gasparro's career occurred during a time when U.S. commemorative coins were not being issued. Just the Iowa Statehood (1946), Booker T. Washington (1946-51), and Washington-Carver (1951-54) commemorative half dollars were issued during Gasparro's 39-year tenure at the Mint.

But Frank Gasparro did, in fact, design many U.S. commemoratives. Commemorative *medals* that is. In the years that followed the end of our first commemorative coin series (1892-1954), the private organizations that had previously looked to commemorative coins to raise funds turned to national commemorative medals (NCMs)

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to serve the same function. These medals are very close cousins to commemorative coins and follow the same process before being struck by the Mint. They are introduced into Congress on behalf of a private sponsor, are debated and approved by Congress, and are authorized by Public Law when signed by the President. It can be said that short of carrying a denomination, they are, for all intents and purposes, identical to commemorative coins.

Between 1959 and 1976, Frank Gasparro designed more of these national commemorative medals than anyone else did. In all, Gasparro designed more than a dozen NCMs in whole or in part. His most famous work of this period is undoubtedly the National Bicentennial Medal of 1976. This piece features a stunning presentation of the Statue of Liberty on its obverse, and the Great Seal of the United States on its reverse. It was issued in bronze, gold-plated bronze, silver, and gold in a variety of sizes and represents one of the most successful individual medal programs ever produced by the Mint.

In part two of this article, I'll catalog the national commemorative medals of Gasparro, and present a brief overview of some of his other commemorative works.

David Provost is president of the Raleigh Coin Club, an avid collector of medals, and a frequent contributor to the Raleigh CC *Newsletter* and these pages.

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March 1999

20-21 Winston-Salem Coin Club 30th Annual Coin Show. Elks Lodge, 3340 Silas Creek Parkway (next to Hanes Mall). Dan Rundquist, 336-774-1228

27 Camden (SC) Coin Club Annual Show. Teenage Canteen, Hwy 1 South. LoRan Ross, (803) 432-0072

April 1999

9-11 Lower Cape Fear Coin Club Azalea Festival Coin Show. B.P.O.E. (Elks) Lodge, 5201 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC. David D. Porter, 910-326-3233 [exhibits: Jim Barry, (910) 270-4899 by Apr 2]

17-18 Cape Fear Coin Club Spring Show. Clarion Plaza Hotel, Fayetteville. 1965 Cedar Creek Rd. (I-95 exit 49). John Wills, POB 40632, Fayetteville, NC 28309

24-25 Salem Coin Club Spring Show. American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr., Salem, VA. Emmett Yonce, 540-992-5331

May 1999

14-16 Wake Forest Coin Show. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. George Rogers (919) 556-1994

22-23 Raleigh Coin Club Show. Kerr Scott Building, State Fairgrounds. Halbert Carmichael, 919-832-4128

29-30 Carteret Numismatic Society Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC. David Porter, 910-326-3233

June 1999

4-6 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Ted Hendrick (919) 828-9450

18-20 Memphis International Paper money Show. Cook Convention Center, Memphis, TN. 901-754-6118

July 1999

31-Aug 1 Collector's Showcase of America Coin and Card Show. Roanoke Civic Center, 710 Williamson Rd., Roanoke, VA. Emmett Yonce 540-992-5331

August 1999

13-15 Wake Forest Coin Show. Myrtle Beach (SC) Convention Center. George Rogers (919) 556-1994

17-18 Coin Show. Burlington Ramada Inn, I-85 exit 143 at Highway 62. Barry Ciociola, 919-479-6878

20-22 Wake Forest Coin Show. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. George Rogers (919) 556-1994

11-15 American Numismatic Association Anniversary Convention. Rosemont Convention Center, Chicago, IL. 719-632-2646

27-29 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association. NW Georgia Convention Center, Dalton, GA. Judith Murphy, PO Box 476, East Bend, NC 27018

September 1999

17-19 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Ted Hendrick (919) 828-9450

24-26 NCNA 41st Annual Convention and Coin Show. Village Green, 310 W. Meadowview, Greensboro. CY Dellinger, (704) 568-3897

October 1999

23-24 Salem Coin Club Fall Show. American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr., Salem, VA. Emmett Yonce, 540-992-5331

A Weekend in Chapel Hill with Coins and Paper Money

Celebrate National Coin Week and the North Carolina Collection's exhibition "Hard Cash & Hard Times: A History of North Carolina Currency." Join local and national experts in numismatics for an examination of the history of North Carolina money.

The events on the afternoons of Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18 are free and open to the public. On each day, a panel of specialists will discuss the production, use, history, and collecting of money produced or circulating in North Carolina. Saturday will focus on paper money including Confederate and North Carolina Civil War currency, "obsolete" bank notes and scrip, and National bank notes. Sunday will highlight coins, including the Bechtler coins privately minted in Rutherford County during North Carolina's "gold rush"and the gold coins produced by the US Mint in Charlotte. Events are in the Assembly Room, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina-CH campus. Sponsored in part by NCNA.

Saturday, Apr 17 Paper Money

11:30am-1pm	Lunch at Carolina Inn by reservation only (self pay)
1:00-1:30	Tour exhibition
1:30	Society of Paper Money Collectors meeting, focussing on NC and Civil War currency
2:30	Free appraisals
3:30-4:30	Social, refreshments, tour exhibition

Sunday, Apr 18 Coins

11:30am-1pm	Lunch at Carolina Inn by reservation only (self pay)
1:00pm	Free appraisals
2:00	Panel discussion focussing on Charlotte and Bechtler gold
3:00-4:00	Social, refreshments, tour exhibition

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The "Atlantic States" Web Note Hoard

Barry Ciociola

The reason for this story to appear here is to further educate the collectors of Web-Fed Press Notes by illustrating the diverse amounts of blocks available in a geographic region of the country. Most collectors of Web Notes already know how to spot a Web Note by the lack of plate number on the back of the One Dollar bill below the word ONE. On Web Notes the plate number actually appears above the word ONE and just to the right of IN GOD WE TRUST. The other thing which stands out is the fact that the front side of the Web Notes do not show any position letters, only the plate number not preceded by any letter.

There are many ways in which collectors have decided to collect Web Notes, several examples of which follow; they are collected only by the block such as the 15 blocks produced in the series of 1988-A, the 2 blocks made in series 1993, and the 5 blocks printed in series 1995. Some collectors take it one step further and collect by the front and back plate combination and others. The diehards take it one step more by collecting the plate combination and the "run" of the serial number range. This article will only focus on the amounts of notes found in the hoard broken down by blocks. A complete listing would be too much to put in one article.

About a week prior to the Memphis '98 Paper Money Show I received a phone call from someone who knew that I dealt in Web Notes, inquiring as to whether I' d be interested in looking over some 6,000 Web Notes. I said sure, "but it may take some time." Boy, little did I know how much time I was talking about. We agreed to meet at the show and go over what he had accumulated from about 3 years of searching. Initially he was only looking for the B–L (block) notes and the elusive F–* notes, which eventually led him to keeping every web note he came across. We met at the show in Memphis on Saturday morning. I really had no idea what 6,000 one dollar bills would fit in—now I know: a box which used to hold a case of "motor oil." Actually it turned out to be a good disguise. Who would steal a box of motor oil from someone??? – Hmmm. As it turned out we went over all the notes he had in the box and found it to be 5,964. After we agreed on a price I then had to start the process of breaking the notes down by block and that eventually led me to decide to write this story, since I thought it could be useful to those collecting to actually see what was possible to find in circulation from the now "ill-fated" Web Note experiment.

Here is a breakdown of the notes by block from the "Atlantic States" Web Note Hoard, and the total amount of each series. The individual from whom the notes were purchased only said he lived on the East Coast, somewhere in the mid-Atlantic states, thus the name "Atlantic States" Web Note Hoard.

The first group of notes we'll look at is the series of 1988-A. By themselves they consisted of only 706 notes for a total of 12 % of the group. By blocks the breakdown looks like this. There were a total of:

19 – from the A–E block
77 – from the A–G block
44 – from the E–I block
92 – from the A–F block
43 – from the C–A block
60 – from the E–K block

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39 – from the F–N block
126 – from the F–V block
33 – from the G–Q block.
12 – from the F–M block
93 – from the F–U block
53 – from the G–P block

The next group of Web Notes were the series of 1993. These surprisingly came out to be just a bit higher than the 1988-A totals at just 947 notes. As a percentage of notes found these were only 16%. By block these two blocks had counts of:

379 for the B–H block
568 for the C–A block.

The last series of Web Notes produced by the government was the 1995 series. As the last group issued, not surprisingly there were more of them found although the totals were a bit surprising. By blocks these notes were found in the following quantities for a total of 4,311 or 72% of all the notes in this group. The totals:

525 for the A–C block
557 for the D–C block
375 for the A–D block (the last Web Notes printed in July 1996).
821 for the B–H block
2,033 for the F–D block

There is a good book which came out at the Memphis Show by Bob Kvederas Sr. & Jr. giving the relative rarities of the Web Notes by block and run along with the plate combinations, information which will certainly help anyone wishing to complete a set of Web Notes. Along with the data provided here, collectors may realize which notes are truly scarce and which are the toughest notes he/she will have to acquire.

As stated at the beginning of this article, the individual collecting the "hoard" of Web Notes was in pursuit of the B–L notes and the F–*. Unfortunately these were not sold as part of the group, but he was lucky enough to have found 2 of the Atlanta F–* notes and 3 of the New York B–L Web Notes, both from the 1988-A series. After all, isn't that what collecting is all about—the "fun" of the hunt and the pursuit of just one or two elusive items for our collections?

Barry Ciociola is a fulltime Coin and Currency dealer residing in Durham, North Carolina. For a S.A.S.E. with 2-33c stamps a full list will be mailed of all the blocks and plate combinations broken down in their respective runs. He may be reached at P.O. Box 71646, Durham, North Carolina 27722-1646

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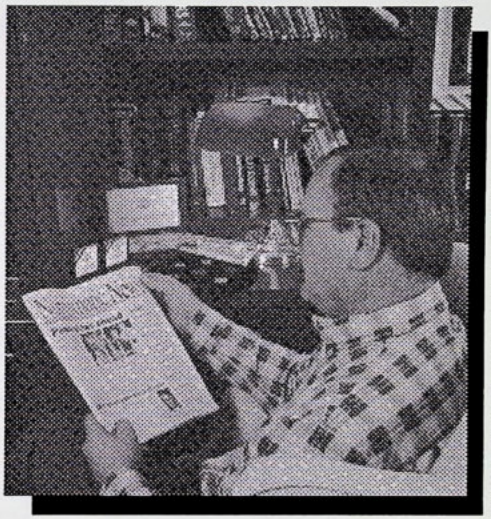

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